MUNDO OBRERO
WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!
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Portland labor protests genocide in Gaza

By Lyn Neeley
Portland, Oregon

Hundreds of protesters, union members and activists marched to the home of the U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) on Sept. 21 to demand that he oppose genocide in Gaza. They called on him to join Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR), who has co-sponsored legislation to stop Trump's recent plan to send $6 billion more in weapons to Israel.

Protesters were asked to dress in black, in mourning for the over 65,000 Palestinians who have been killed in Gaza and at least 1,000 killed in the occupied West Bank. Neighbors, living along the route of the "funeral procession," cheered as the demonstrators chanted and marched past. Some came out of their houses to join the march and rally in front of Wyden's house.

Organizers included unions, such as Portland State University Faculty Association, Service Employees Union 503 Local 089, the Communication Workers of America Local 7091, the New Seasons Labor Union, the Federal Unionists Network (FUN) and AFSCME Local 88, as well as Jobs with Justice and Democratic Socialists of America. ❐

WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

Some of the hundreds of community and union activists in front of Oregon Senator Ron Wyden's house demanding he oppose Israel's genocide in Gaza. Sept. 21, 2025.

WW PHOTO: SASHA MAZUMDER

Pro-Palestine action near the United Nations, New York City. Sept. 23, 2025.

Students, workers march as dockworkers block port, Genoa, Italy, Sept. 22, 2025.

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Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQIA2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, class solidarity, and joining us in the fight for a socialist future, please sign up at **www.workers.org/join-form** and an organizer will get back to you. Or contact a WWP branch near you. □

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Jimmy Kimmel suspension

Billionaires profit – Trump censors opponents

By Betsey Piette

First the Donald Trump administration came after academia, demanding the elimination of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs (DEI), expulsions and even deportations of pro-Palestinian students and the silencing of faculty who dared to speak out. Despite their multibillion dollar endowments, one after the other, led by the Ivy Leagues, the universities caved.

Next were the bogus lawsuits charging defamation and bias against major media outlets, including ABC, CBS and the Wall Street Journal. And just like the university trustees, corporate media buckled to get Trump off their backs. CBS and ABC, along with Disney, paid Trump off instead of challenging him in court.

Now, in moves reminiscent of McCarthyism, Trump and his lackeys are going full gun after late-night talk show hosts. First Stephen Colbert, whose cancelled late-night show on CBS just won an Emmy, and now Jimmy Kimmel, who for years has targeted Trump in his monologues. It appears that Trump and his henchman Federal Communications Commission Chairman Brendan Carr feel they can silence their critics and do away with the constitutionally protected right to freedom of speech in one fell swoop.

Disney, as the parent company of ABC, suspended Jimmy Kimmel Live! indefinitely on Sept. 17 after intense criticism and pressure from Trump and other conservatives over remarks Kimmel made about the political leanings of the man charged with the murder of Charlie Kirk and about Trump's ultraright MAGA supporters trying to capitalize on the murder. Nexstar, the largest television station owner in the U.S., agreed to preempt Kimmel's show even before ABC announced the move.

Nexstar was already in negotiations with Carr for approval of its $6.2 billion merger with Tegna. Getting the FCC's approval would need a change in a long-standing rule that limited any one company's access to 39% of U.S. households. The merger with Tegna would give Nexstar over 80% — a nearly complete monopoly.

Carr took things even further with censorship threats made during an appearance on right-wing podcaster Benny Johnson's program. He said that the FCC would pull local broadcast licenses of any station that doesn't "change conduct" even though there is no precedent for the FCC to take such steps, and it is probably illegal under the First Amendment.

Billionaires benefit

Amidst the uproar around Kimmel's suspension, Trump-supporting billionaires are being given even greater control over broadcast media as well as social media. Larry Ellison and his son David Ellison already have controlling interests in CBS and Paramount. Ellison senior is the second-richest individual in the world and the largest private funder of the Israel Occupation Forces.

Signs outside El Capitan Entertainment Centre in Los Angeles include call for Disney boycott, Sept. 18, 2025.

According to the Wall Street Journal of Sept.21, the Ellisons are preparing a bid, estimated at $80 billion, for control over Warner Brothers Discovery which controls HBO Max, the Warner Bros. movie studio and CNN. Larry Ellison's company Oracle is set to be part of a consortium of U.S. investors hoping to control the U.S. version of TikTok.

Threat of more to come

Following the success with Kimmel, the Trump cabal has continued to use Kirk's killing to crack down on what they call "the left." Trump is encouraging NBC to cancel the late-night shows of Jimmy Fallon and Seth Meyers. In a further step to limit news reporting, on Sept. 19, War Secretary Pete Hegseth issued a new mandate prohibiting reporters from obtaining military or defense information without Pentagon approval — or risk losing their press credentials.

At the memorial service for Kirk in Arizona on Sept. 21, Trump hailed him as a "martyr" and used the occasion to go after political opponents saying: "I hate my opponents, and I don't want the best for them." (BBC, Sept. 21) Within hours of the service, Trump sent a public social media post to Attorney General Pam Bondi instructing her to prosecute his political enemies. The post on Truth Social mentioned New York Attorney General Letitia James, former FBI director James Comey and Sen. Adam Schiff (D-CA) by name. (NewsNation, Sept. 21)

Billionaires are accelerating their efforts to consolidate control over media platforms, and as long as they can increase their profits and carry out mergers, they will bend over backwards to appease Trump and the capitalist state. Similar to academics, television broadcasters will begin to self-censor.

There is a growing boycott against Disney and ABC and connected platforms ESPN+ and Hulu. Over 100 protesters demonstrated outside the El Capitan Entertainment Centre in Los Angeles on Sept. 18, blocking traffic in the tourist area and holding signs that read "Don't bend the knee to Trump" and "Douse the Mouse." Protesters also gathered outside Walt Disney Studios in Burbank, California.

The Writers Guild of America East organized a protest against ABC's decision to suspend Jimmy Kimmel on Sept. 19, in New York City. The New York Times on Sept. 22, reported that at least five Hollywood unions, collectively representing more than 400,000 workers, publicly condemned the company. A letter signed by over 400 celebrities objected to Kimmel's firing and government censorship.

Public pressure works. In the late afternoon on Sept. 22, ABC announced that "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" would return to the air on Sept. 23.

A truly anti-capitalist program is needed to mobilize a working-class-based resistance to censorship and to far more vicious attacks on those who are truly part of "the left." ☐

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September 25, 2025

Make October 14 a day to remember George Floyd, not Kirk

Congress passed a bill on Sept. 19 declaring Oct. 14 as a "National Day of Remembrance for Charlie Kirk." The October date is Kirk's birthday. The House of Representatives vote was 310 – 58, with 95 Democrats joining all 215 Republicans in voting yes on the nonbinding resolution. The 58 no votes all came from Democrats — mostly members of the Congressional Black and Hispanic Caucuses — and another 38 Democrats voted present. An additional 22 Democrats did not vote.

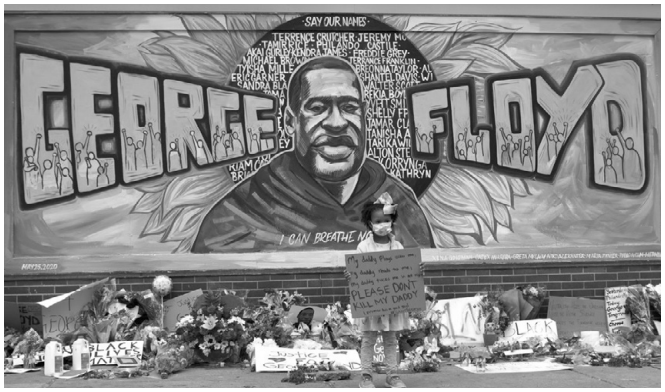
The Senate shockingly voted unanimously for the bill. Kirk, an ultraright winger, was assassinated on Sept. 10 during a MAGA rally at a college in Utah. President Donald Trump had flags flown at half-mast all over the country on the same day and through Sept.14 to honor his fellow white supremacist. Ironically, there were no flags at half-mast flown in remembrance of the Birmingham, Alabama, church bombings that occurred on Sept. 15, 1963, when four Black girls were murdered by the Ku Klux Klan — a seminal event for the Civil Rights Movement.

White billionaire owners of National Football League teams held a moment of silence for Kirk prior to the playing of the militaristic, racist Star-Spangled Banner anthem before games. The popular late night host Jimmy Kimmel had his show suspended until Sept. 23 by ABC executives for his opening monologue making remarks about Kirk's alleged killer. It appears that the much heralded right to free speech is mainly reserved for MAGA loyalists.

Remembering victims of police brutality

But hold on. October 14 is the birthdate for another high profile figure — George Floyd. Floyd died at the age of 46 on May 25, 2020, when he was strangled by a white police officer in Minneapolis; the murder caught on a phone and spread on social media. This lynching of a Black man led to a summer of unprecedented protests throughout the country against police violence and made the cause of the Black Lives Matter struggle a national issue. Never to be forgotten is when Kirk had the audacity to publicly demonize Floyd following his death.

The powerful impact of the Floyd protests forced the Joe Biden administration to have the Department of Justice establish police "reforms" with police departments to help bring about some accountability for their actions toward communities of color. These moderate reforms have been virtually eliminated since Trump took office.



Minneapolis, Minnesota

To make Oct. 14 a day of remembrance for an outright white supremacist goes way beyond being an outrage. It is a slap in the face for every progressive gain won by mass movements for social change. This congressional vote pushed by the White House and backed by the billionaire ruling class is a political declaration of war on the multinational and multigendered working class.

To counter honoring someone as despicable as Kirk, the U.S. left should declare Oct. 14 as a national day of remembrance for George Floyd and other well-known victims of police brutality and other forms of neo-fascist terror. These people include Breonna Taylor, Eric Garner, Ahmaud Arbery, Sandra Bland, Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown and countless others.

And now, Trey Reed most likely can tragically be added to this list. Reed was a young Black college student whose body was found hanging from a tree on Sept. 15 at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi. Authorities immediately tried to bury Reed's death as a suicide, but many Black activists find this ruling more than suspicious. There has been little to no mention of this crime in the corporate media.

Trump seeks to wipe away every institution that even mentions past crimes against humanity under capitalism — and resistance to them — including the genocide of Indigenous nations, enslavement of African peoples and the oppresssion of trans people. Honoring Kirk is meant to divert attention away from any of these criminal acts that highlight the already corrosive image of U.S. imperialism.

Workers World Party calls on the movement to popularize the call, in word and deed, for honoring George Floyd on what would have been his 52nd birthday and make the day a significant symbol for the ongoing struggle against racist repression. ❐

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Day 2 in French anti-gov't actions: 'Stop austerity!'

By John Catalinotto

A million people joined the Sept. 18 protest action aimed at stopping the French regime's war on the workers. Besides street demonstrations and some traffic disruptions, tens of thousands of workers held strikes that closed schools and shut down significant public transportation.

The French government mobilized 80,000 police and gendarmes to repress the demonstrators and attack any people who attempted civil disobedience or direct action. In the early morning, police attacked high school students with tear gas and batons.

Strikes cut the metro traffic in Paris in half. It only ran during rush hours.

Behind the eruption of class struggle on Sept. 10 and 18 is the continuous decline in the quality of life for working people in cities and in rural areas. This decline includes the 2023 legal rise in retirement age — a de facto cut in pensions — and the current regime's attempt to cut social services that mainly aid the working class.

President Emmanuel Macron plans to increase the military budget by 150 billion euros in preparation for war with Russia. Macron's war-mongering has created more tension and cost him additional popular support. Some polls show his approval rating dropping below 20%.

The military budget increase has created a deficit of 44 billion euros ($52 billion) in the 2026 national budget. Union members and leaders say the 2026 budget will make cuts to retirement pensions, labor rights and access to public services.

Leaders of trade unions with CGT union Secretary General Sophie Binet, center right, and CFDT Deputy General Secretary Marylise Leon, center left, at the Sept. 18, 2025, protest in Paris, France, holding a 'Stop austerity' banner.

The same challenges that workers in France face exist throughout the European Union. Some EU governments, supported by the EU bureaucracy and NATO, have increased their military budgets by double what it was. They cut spending on social services and benefits for workers, claiming it was to balance the budget. Like in France, those pro-capitalist governments don't plan to make the rich pay more taxes.

That means the drive to militarization adds up to cuts in workers' benefits and a threat to their lives.

Union federations mobilize Sept. 18

The day of blockades on Sept. 10 was organized using social media. All the national labor union federations joined forces to organize the September 18 action. The inter-union group is made up of the three largest federations, of which the CGT and CFDT each have more than 600,000 members, while the FO has about 325,000. The CFE-CGC, CFTC, Unsa, FSU, and Solidaires federations are much smaller.

In France, less than 10% of workers are union members. But unions can still sometimes stop education, travel and production. They can also organize big demonstrations. Most people quoted in the media have said that the participation of the union federations was responsible for the increase in participation on Sept. 18 compared to the week before.

When it came to politics, however, the leaders of the different unions tried to avoid conflict. They focused their messages and demands on the economic impact, rather than on the war threat.

But that didn't stop the conflict. The police started a lot of fights and were very violent with the high school kids. The authorities reported that they had arrested 309 people during the day.

While the leaders of the different unions did not support anti-imperialist slogans, many protesters carried Palestinian flags to show their solidarity, especially against the genocide in Gaza. In Marseille, France's second-largest city, hundreds of demonstrators blocked the military factory owned by Eurolinks. This factory provides military equipment to Israel, and protesters charged it as being complicit with genocide.

There were some new protest tactics used. In Cherbourg, a coastal town in western France across the English Channel, protesters continuously and slowly walked in pedestrian crossings on roads leading to the city center. Traffic slowed to a crawl.

There were mobilizations in hundreds of cities and towns in France on Sept. 18. Even before the march in Paris began in the afternoon, Sophie Binet, secretary general of the CGT, said, "We have counted 260 demonstrations across France." She said there were "thousands and thousands of strikes in the workplace," with schools, daycare centers, libraries and swimming pools "largely closed." The union organizers estimated total participation at 1 million. (publicsenat.fr, Sept. 18)

High school pupils join Sept. 18, 2025, protests in France. Some slogans read, 'Down with the capitalists and Macron' and 'The youth are pissing off the [far right] National Rally.'

The anti-imperialist left organizations, which are a small minority of the protesters, participated enthusiastically in the demonstrations wherever they had forces. For example, the Pole of Communist Revival in France (PRCF) encouraged its members and friends to participate and draw attention to the danger of war regarding Ukraine and campaign in solidarity with Palestine. They connected these issues to the class struggle against the Macron regime.

The PRCF's articles and talks highlighted the urgent need to challenge the capitalist system itself. The group's slogan was, "On Sept. 10, the struggle was in the streets, and on Sept. 18 and after, it will continue in the streets." □

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Mentiras en torno al asesinato de Kirk

Primero, dejemos claro quiénes son los autores de la violencia. En la primera mitad de septiembre:

Los israelíes, armados por Estados Unidos, mataban a cientos de civiles palestinos cada día, sumándose al total de decenas de miles de niños asesinados durante 23 meses de genocidio. Los aviones de combate bombardean a civiles y los francotiradores israelíes ejecutan a niños de un solo disparo en la cabeza, el abdomen o el corazón. Washington proporciona apoyo político y diplomático, además de armas.

Trump envió siete buques de guerra estadounidenses con 4.500 efectivos, y 2.200 de la Infantería de Marina, al Caribe con licencia para matar. Y para amenazar a Venezuela. Trump mostró un vídeo de estos barcos volando por los aires una pequeña embarcación, matando a 11 tripulantes, y se jactó de su acción, que es ilegal según el derecho internacional y estadounidense. Sin pruebas, tildó a las víctimas de narcotraficantes.

Trump envió agentes enmascarados y armados del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE por las siglas en inglés) para ocupar ciudades y detener a trabajadores que, según ellos, no parecen haber nacido en Estados Unidos. Los agentes del ICE dispararon y mataron a un mexicano cerca de Chicago.

Los acontecimientos demuestran que la fuente de la violencia es el aparato estatal imperialista estadounidense. Eso es cierto independientemente de quién ocupe la Casa Blanca. Las fanfarronadas y bravuconerías de Trump y sus calumnias contra sus objetivos intensifican la atmósfera tóxica que crea la violencia estatal.

En el Partido Mundo Obrero lamentamos la muerte de los niños palestinos y de todos los palestinos que han sido masacrados por las acciones de Estados Unidos e Israel. Lamentamos la muerte del padre mexicano asesinado por agentes del ICE. Protestamos contra el terror impuesto a los pescadores venezolanos. Lamentamos la pérdida de los trabajadores y los pueblos oprimidos de todo el mundo que han sido martirizados.

Pero no lamentamos a los fascistas. No lloramos a los propagandistas de la ideología racista. No lamentamos a los portavoces de la misoginia. No lamentamos a quienes atacan los derechos de las personas LGBTQIA2S+ y luego difaman e insultan a quienes atacan. No lamentamos a quienes difaman a los migrantes y otras personas de color.

Giddings, Texas, 19 de agosto de 2025.

No sabemos con certeza quién mató al agente de Trump, Charlie Kirk, ni cuál fue el motivo. Las autoridades policiales tienen bajo custodia a un joven sospechoso, Tyler Robinson, y controlan la información. Los medios de comunicación siguen cambiando sus versiones sobre el sospechoso. Hasta el 15 de septiembre, nadie ha encontrado ninguna conexión entre el sospechoso y ninguna organización que se sitúe a la izquierda del Partido Republicano.

Sin embargo, sí sabemos lo que Kirk dijo, escribió y se disponía a hacer, ya que era una figura muy pública. Hasta ahora, es bastante fácil encontrar sus declaraciones en Internet, si se atreven a leerlas. Consideramos que sus citas son tóxicas, al igual que nuestros lectores. Quienes lo deseen pueden consultar sus comentarios hostiles hacia los derechos de las mujeres, las personas negras, la comunidad trans y las personas nacidas fuera de Estados Unidos. No es exagerado decir que Kirk promovía agresivamente el nacionalismo cristiano blanco.

La camarilla de Trump ha amenazado con castigar a los periodistas o analistas que hablen o publiquen cualquier cosa crítica sobre lo que Kirk ha dicho tan a menudo, incluidos sus objetivos. Algunos periodistas y funcionarios ya han sido despedidos o castigados por simplemente decir la verdad sobre lo que Kirk ha dicho y hecho.

La administración MAGA está explotando este asesinato para lanzar un amplio ataque contra la «izquierda», es decir, contra cualquiera que se niegue a someterse a su gobierno reaccionario. El hecho de que no se haya demostrado ninguna vinculación del sospechoso con ninguna organización de izquierda no es un obstáculo para que Trump promueva mentiras o ataque a sus enemigos y rivales.

Depende de todos aquellos que se consideran opositores al régimen reaccionario de Trump mantenerse unidos y defender a cualquiera que se pronuncie en contra del programa de Trump, del que Kirk era portavoz. Defender a todos los que dicen la verdad sobre lo que se dijo y se organizan contra MAGA.

Defender a todos los que se niegan a lamentar. Parafraseando la declaración del organizador sindical y mártir Joe Hill para un nuevo contexto, aquellos que «no lamentan» deben «organizarse». □

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